

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **WSP Commercial Motor Vehicle Chain Enforcement Emphasis on Mountain Passes a success**

Chief John R. Batiste is happy to announce the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division state wide Chain Enforcement Emphasis was a success. The emphasis conducted on November 22, 2005 covered Snoqualmie, Stevens, Sherman, Blewett, Disautel, Wauconda, Satus and White Passes.

Forty Commercial Vehicle Officers, and Troopers around the state contributed to the emphasis. The following statistics were compiled.

- 480 Commercial Vehicles checked.
- 17 Citations written for no tire chains, or not enough to chain required number of tires on vehicle.
- 83 written warnings for missing required number of chains(Has enough to chain required tires on vehicle)
- 16 verbal warnings – Has all the chains, but some chains are damaged.
- 7 trucks turned around for no tire chains.

Washington State law requires all commercial vehicles licensed over 10,000 pounds to carry tire chains between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> when traveling over mountain passes. The penalty for failing to carry chains is \$155; failing to chain-up carries a \$500 penalty.

"Every year a tremendous amount of time is spent on the passes performing traffic control behind semi-trucks stuck in the snow and ice who failed to chain-up," said Captain Coral Estes, Commercial Vehicle Division. "This only contributes to the already unsafe driving conditions," she added.

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